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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/559,469	04/26/2000	Shinichi Kudo	Q59040	1492

7590 08/25/2004

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2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
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EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, BINH AN DUC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/559,469

Applicant(s)

KUDO, SHINICHI

Examiner

Binh-An D. Nguyen

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The Request for Continued Examination filed July 9, 2004 has been approved. The Amendment filed May 10, 2004 is hereby considered. According to the Amendment, claims 1, 4, and 7-9 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Acknowledgment has been made.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rieder (5,769,718) in view of Stephens et al. (6,155,923).

Rieder teaches a video game device and method comprising an image of a player character, images of non-player characters (antagonist characters), and background images; predetermining a plurality of operational modes which are assigned to player character (fighting mode, moving mode, etc.), and preparing an image corresponding to each operational mode; displaying an image of the player character corresponding to any one of plurality of operational modes and images of non-player characters, simultaneously with any one of the background images (Fig. 6); the image of the player character is an image displaying the player character in a state where it is carrying a weapon; a fighting mode representing a state wherein the player character is

able to fight using the weapon; and a moving mode representing a state wherein the character moves while carrying the weapon (Fig. 5). See Figures 4-8 and columns 2:11-5 and 5-8. Rieder does not explicitly teach the limitations of background images that display scenes adjacent to each other in location (claims 1, 4, and 7-9); restricting the switching of the background images from the start until completion of an operational mode (claims 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9); information relating to background images is determined on the basis of the video RAM capacity of the video device (claims 2 and 5).

Stephens et al., however, teaches a video game system and methods for enhanced processing and display of graphical character elements comprising background images that display scenes adjacent to each other in location (Figure 1); restricting the switching of the background images from the start until completion of an operational mode (5:36-48); information relating to background images is determined on the basis of the video RAM capacity of the video device (5:2-10:43). See also, Figures 1-6 and columns 1-4.

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Rieder's with a video game system and methods for enhanced processing and display of graphical character elements, as taught by Stephens et al., to come up with a more affordable and faster video game processing device thus attract more game players and increase profit in sales.

4. Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Applicant's arguments filed May 10, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument regarding Stephens et al.'s game system required no mechanical operation to access the ROM cartridge (applicant's remark, page 7, last paragraph bridging page 8). This limitation, however, has not been claimed by the applicant.

Further, regarding the amended feature of "switching between background images requires a finite and unacceptable delay" which has been amended to the preamble of claims 1,4, and 7-9 (applicant's remark, page 7, paragraphs 3-4); this feature does not further limit the claims since no functional step or process has been provided in the body of the claim to further define the switching rate of the images.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5713. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington can be reached on 703-308-2159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.



A. L. WELLINGTON

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

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